

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 224**

January 31, 2021

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires youth development centers, local jails, and Department of Correction (DOC) facilities that provide telephone services for juveniles to provide such services at no cost to the caller or recipient when the receiving party is a parent or guardian.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – \$10,200/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$50,000/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years\***

Assumptions:

- Based on information provided by the Department of Children Services (DCS), the Department does not charge youth to make calls to parents or guardians at development centers; therefore, any fiscal impact to DCS resulting from the proposed legislation is estimated to be not significant.
- Based on information provided by the DOC, over the last three fiscal years, juveniles located at the Northwest Correction Complex placed an average of 4,145 phone calls at a cost of \$9,300.
- This analysis assumes such calls were made to a parent or guardian.
- Removing fees associated with phone calls to parents or guardians will lead to a 10 percent increase in juvenile phone usage and result in a recurring increase in state expenditures in FY21-22 and subsequent years estimated to be \$10,230 (\$9,300 x 110%).
- This analysis assumes that most local jails enter into contracts to provide services for placing calls and charge juveniles for phone privileges.
- Prohibiting local jails from charging a fee for such services will require local jails to procure new service contracts for such services.
- The precise fiscal impact to local jails resulting from the proposed legislation is unknown; however, it is reasonable to estimate that prohibiting local jails from charging juveniles for placing phone calls to a parent or guardian will result in a recurring mandatory increase in local expenditures in FY21-22 and subsequent years estimated to exceed \$50,000 statewide.

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

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